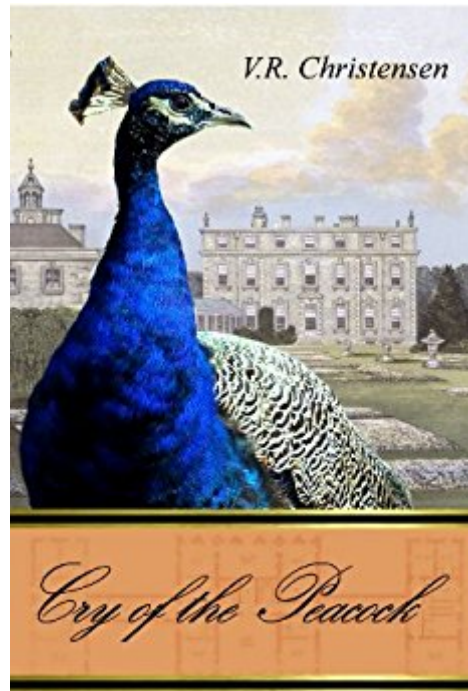




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Cry Of The Peacock



Synopsis

An illustrious marriage, a fortune, a position of wealth and influence. These are the dreams and ambitions of any Victorian woman of sense. Or are they? Perhaps not for Arabella Gray. The death of Abbie's father, the overseer of a large country estate, leaves her without means or resources, without, even, a place to live. Her landlords, in an extraordinary display of charity, invite her to live at Holdaway Hall. But the invitation is as puzzling as it is generous. Why are the Crawfords, who have never paid her any notice before, so concerned with her wellbeing now? It's a question the younger Crawford brothers would like to have answered as well. Certainly Miss Gray is a mercenary upstart. Certainly their brother is mad for fancying himself in love with her. Such a union would make them a laughing stock. They mean to put a stop to it, but when they learn that her past is closely—even disturbingly—connected with their own, they are brought up short, forced to ask themselves some very hard questions. As Abbie herself soon learns, there is a great mystery at the heart of her landlords' extraordinary offer. Everything she has ever dreamt of might be hers for the taking, but is the price worth it? More than her happiness alone rests upon her decision. If she refuses Ruskin Crawford's offer of marriage, will she be able to live with the consequences? If she does, will she be able to live with herself? In the end, all must ask themselves some very hard questions. What does it mean to be a man or woman of honor and integrity? What does it mean, after all, to be a gentleman? And what, exactly, is the price of a woman's heart?

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Customer Reviews

Twists and turns abound in this beautifully told, complex story that takes place in the later years of the nineteenth century. The Crawfords of Holdaway Hall make an offer to a young lady, Abbie, an offer that is more than simple courtesy and care: they have something in mind, something that concerns her. This is the secret of "Cry of the Peacock." What is Ruskin's motive when he asks for Abbie's hand in marriage? A marriage, which, if it takes place, would be well beneath his station? Why does Abbie's Aunt Newhaven despise the Crawfords so much? Into this strange tableau of Ruskin asking for the overseer's daughter's hand comes the two younger Crawford brothers, David and James. Their father has not confided in them: neither understands why their brother is trying to win the heart of this common lowborn woman and they don't believe love has won him over. Both set out to discover the truth, and both are inclined to think Abbie a gold digger. For her own part, Abbie doesn't understand Ruskin's motives either, but the pressure put upon her to accept his offer is tremendous, from everyone except her aunt. Her instincts warn her that something isn't right and she hardly knows Ruskin, but cold hard commonsense fails her when it comes to another young man. From page one, "Cry of the Peacock" is a mystery, a journey of discovery, a peeling of the onion down to its core of truth. I found it deeply compelling, a character-driven story with a flavor reminiscent of "Pride and Prejudice." Having read the author's debut novel, "Of Moths and Butterflies," I was looking forward to a new set of well-drawn protagonists and first-rate dialogue, and I wasn't disappointed. Christensen's selfish, sometimes cruel men, especially, are so well done that one wants to throttle them. Lighthearted scenes are juxtaposed with dark drama, and carry the reader through to a satisfying end. I enjoyed it thoroughly.

It's a very good but very long read. I was surprised how that era that the tin help charities but at a distance not to dirty their hands or reputation. I don't want to give anything away about the characters but David and James are my favorites. Poor Abbie too much pressure to feel that she is in the Crawford debt when they really need her to help with theirs. Lady Crawford is very stern it's

like she doesn't realize how much they need Abbie. So instead of being nice she is super critical. After reading some very steamy historical romance this was a nice clean lovely story

An American author, writing a true English novel of a bygone period is itself a novelty. The plot is interesting and the characters come alive so much you can feel their presence. Two sisters, three brothers, conniving parents of the brothers, an inheritance at stake, and stigma for hands on help to the unfortunate. Indeed a great novel.

I'm really not sure. I liked the book in the last few chapters but it felt like an uphill struggle to get to "the good part". I cared more about the story line of some of the secondary characters before the main ones. There are some interesting points in the story but it is very complicated to follow for most of the book.

I picked this book up when it was offered free of charge. It took a while but I finally got a chance to read it. However, I just couldn't finish it, tried, but couldn't. Perhaps this is just not my genre. The book has received primarily good or great reviews. I can say that it is okay, but I couldn't relate to these characters. I like most historical fiction but perhaps not this era or romance type books. I wouldn't discourage anyone from reading *Cry of the Peacock* especially if they appreciate a well written romance novel of this early era.

VERY GOOD BOOK! It was long, but yet it was clean, interesting, and I enjoyed it very much. I can safely recommend it to any one. This was my first book by this author and I LOVED it. Plus it was free so it was win, win all around.

I enjoyed *Cry of the Peacock* from beginning to end. To be sure there were times I wanted to shake Abbie because of her reticence and seeming resignation to her fate, but just about the time I reached my limit she would find her backbone and stand up for herself. Given the time period, the setting, and the characterizations the novel was pretty true to form of Jane Austen and let's just say that women have come a long way since their much managed existence during the Victorian era. If you want a well written story (barring a few mistakes overlooked in editing), then *Cry of the Peacock* is for you.

This bikini enjoyed so much more than God's and Monsters. This was entertaining and more to life!

The manipulation and greed of many men was truly depicted in this but it showed not all women were ninny's ! ENJOY.

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